

In the Notice of Allowability accompanying the Notice of Allowance mailed March 28, 1997 in the parent application of the subject application, Claims 1-32, 34-44, 46-55, and 57-125 were allowed. Of these, Claims 26, 35, and 47 have been amended to even more clearly recite salient features of Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments do not affect the allowability of these claims in any manner whatsoever.

Claims 126-138 have been added to afford Applicants an additional scope of protection. Examples of support for these additional claims may be found in the disclosure as originally filed at page 12, lines 13-19; page 13, lines 3-14; page 24, line 17, to page 25, line 10; and page 23, line 25, to page 24, line 2 of the written description. Of course, these claims are not to be limited by these examples of support for the claimed subject matter.

The Examiner will appreciate that each of the newly-presented claims depends from one of allowed independent Claims 1, 25, 34, and 46. Each of the newly-presented dependent claims is thus believed allowable at least for the reasons that its respective base claim was allowed. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the newly-presented dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 347-8100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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